

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 076396
ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:JTHYDEN

APPROED BY:S/S-O:JTHYDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 076396

EXDIS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM MOGADISCIO DATED MARCH 23, 1978
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO JIDDA IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 0641

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, SO, US, MASS

SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS WITH SOMALIS AND SAUDIS

REF: A.) STATE 075244 B.) MOGADISCIO ,620

1. ALTHOUGH I AGREE SIAD'S LETTER TO THE SPECIAL EMISSARY
RECEIVED THIS MORNING (REFTEL B) IS AMBIGUOUS AND REPRESENTS
AN ATTEMPT TO PRESERVE SOME FLEXIBILITY BY THE GSDR, THE LETTER IS
STILL A MAJOR STEP IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. MY REACTION
IS THAT WE SHOULD NOT IMMEDIATELY SEEK A MORE PRECISE COMMITMENT OR

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CLARIFICATION OF HIS LETTER. IN MY VIEW THE BEST CHANCE FOR SUCCESS
IS TO TIE THE MORE PRECISE COMMITMENT WE WANT FOR AN OFFER OF
EQUIPMENT THAT HE WANTS. I RECOGNIZE THERE IS SOME CART-AND-HORSE
LOGIC IN THIS APPROACH, BUT I THINK IT IT IS THE ONLY WAY BOTH
PARTIES CAN FIND AGREEMENT. IN THE INTERIM,
THE AMBIGUITY OF THE LETTER CAN SERVE OUR PURPOSES AS WELL AS HIS
AS LONG AS OUR INTENT IS TO PUSH FOR A BETTER RELATIONSHIP.

2. I DO NOT BELIEVE THE MECHANICS OF HOW WE IMPROVE THE PRECISION OF THE COMMITMENT IS IMPORTANT SO LONG AS SIAD REGARDS THE OUTCOME AS SUPPORTING HIS OBJECTIVE. AS I HAVE OFTEN STRESSED, HE THINKS IN A DIFFERENT FRAMEWORK THAN WE DO. WHAT WE MIGHT REGARD AS AN OPTIMUM LEGAL PACKAGE SIMPLY DOES NOT HAVE THE SAME APPEAL FOR HIM.

3. I BELIEVE THE INCLUSION OF LETHAL ITEMS IN THE IMMEDIATE PACKAGE WOULD HELP, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE HE IS VERY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE NON-LETHAL ITEMS AT ALL.
I BELIEVE AS I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED, THAT HE IS INTERESTED FIRST AND FOREMOST IN THE VISIBLE HARDWARE HE NEEDS TO DEMONSTRATE TO HIS ARMY AND HIS PEOPLE THAT THE GSDR CAN STILL BUILD A DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY WITHOUT ACCESS TO SOVIET ARMS.

4. UNFORTUNATELY WE HAVE NOT HAD MUCH TIME FOR REFLECTION HERE, NOR HAVE THE SOMALI PARTICIPANTS WITH WHOM I MIGHT USEFULLY DO SOME ADDITIONAL PROBING. EVERYONE WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN OUR LARGELY NOCTURNAL SESSIONS NEEDS A NIGHT OF SLEEP TO CLARIFY HIS THOUGHT PROCESSES. AS SOON AS THIS IDEAL HAS BEEN ATTAINED I WILL ATTEMPT TO GET A BETTER READING ON THE SOMALI ASSESSMENT OF THE PAST FIVE DAYS OF NEGOTIATIONS, AND REPORT FURTHER.
LOUGHRAN UNQUOTE VANCE

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